

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are presently active in this case, Claims 1 and 10 having been amended by the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Hayashi et al (US 6,490,139). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi et al in view of Sasaki et al (US 6,577,475).

In light of the outstanding grounds for rejection, Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to clarify a distinction between the claimed invention and the cited references. To that end, Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite “a magnetoresistance effect film recessed from the medium-facing surface, disposed between the pair of magnetic yokes through an insulation layer, and magnetically coupled to the pair of magnetic yokes of ferromagnetic material, …” This feature added to Claims 1 and 10 is not believed to be evident in the cited art, and therefore the amended claims are believed to be patentably distinguishing over the cited art.

Accordingly, the outstanding rejections on the merits are believed to have been overcome, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

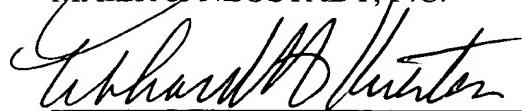
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